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Annotated Bibliography: The impact of the Loss of a Mother

Jackob Najman, et al. "Depression Following Marital Problems: Different Impacts On Mothers And Their Children? A 21-Year Prospective Study." Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric Epidemiology 46.9 (2011): 833-841. Academic Search Premier. Web. 28 Nov. 2012

Najman jackob, author of “depression following marital problems” have written comprehensively about marriage and family composition, some of the strongest predictors of mental and physical health. People who are married are healthier and happier than those who remain single or whose marriage ends. While a selected selection of effect may explain some of these findings happier, healthier people may be more likely to marry or to remain in an intact marriage, there is also evidence that marital problems are associated with a decline in the health of those involved. Jackob also pointed out in his article that with increase rates of marital breakdown it is important to identify the long- term mental health problems and marital change for mothers and their children. Of particular interest is the possibility that mothers may benefit from leaving a relationship, but their children may not.

Jackob are uncluttered with his audience and escorted them through his research efficiently as in comparison to other tougher unprejudiced articles. This articles is not objective in the fact that it examines the effects of marital change on symptoms of depression in mothers and their children. Jackob stated in his article that marital transitions may improve symptoms of depression in the mothers but not in their children.

Bush, Vanessa. "My Mother Dying / Parting Company: Understanding the Loss of a Loved One." The Booklist 95.22 (1999): 1998-. ProQuest Research Library. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

Vanessa Bush “Understanding the loss of a Loved One” focuses on children that have lost their mothers at an early age; she begins by explaining that a mother’s love is phenomenal, it is the first flame to a child’s life. She is the guidance and role model to almost any problem a child can have throughout their life span. Ideally children are raised are raised with two loving parents the author pointed out, to care and support them. In some instances, however, this is not the case. When a child is left motherless because of divorce, separation or death, the child may experience problems associated with this absence. The degree to which the absence of a mother impacts a child depends on a variety of factors. Everything from the gender of the child to the age, at which the child loses his or her mother, can play a vital part in determining how harshly the child feels the effects of not having his or her maternal parent.

Bush major claim is that a mother’s absence from a child life can have a detrimental impact on the child. A mother is there for their children through thick and thin, it is more likely for a father to abandon their children that a mother, because a mothers love is irreplaceable.

PAVARD, S., GAGNON, A., DESJARDINS, B., & HEYER, E. (2005). Mother's death and child survival: The case of early quebec. Journal of Biosocial Science, 37(2), 209-27. Retrieved from http://search.proquest.com/docview/203913648?accountid=10017

The aim of this paper is to account for the effect of mother’s death

on child survival in a historical population. Using comprehensive data on the

early French Canadian population of Quebec, evidence is provided for a

higher risk of dying for motherless children that remains significant over all

childhood and long after the death of the mother. The specific effect of the

loss of maternal care was estimated by comparing mortality before and after

mother’s death, furnishing a means to control for family heterogeneity. No

differential in investment between genders was detected before age 3, but

older girls suffered a three-fold higher susceptibility to mother’s death than

their male counterparts. This suggests that grown-up girls assuming the

responsibilities of the missing mother had a lower chance of survival

Maternal care is a major determinant of infant and child survival. Traditionally,

demographers have addressed this issue in terms of socioeconomic status, maternal

education, behavioral characteristics of the parents, and household conditions.

Many studies have focused on maternal care as a determinant of child mortality

but few have been interested in the complete lack or absence of maternal care. Van

der Broeck et al. (1996) noted that, in contrast to other risk factors, mother–child

separation was rare and did not significantly increase mortality in a rural African

community. However, Brittain (1992), using a historical dataset from the Caribbean,

showed that the death of a mother is a major determinant of a child’s survival before

The first two authors contributed equally to this article

Vrana, Debora. "A Lingering Sense of Loss; while Still in Her Teens, Hope Edelman Lost Her Mother. She Felt the Absence Anew when She Became a Mother. but She Wasn't Alone." Los Angeles Times: 0. May 10 2006. National Newspapers Core. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

Debora Vrana author of “A Lingering sense of Loss, has written extensive about the fact that men feels lost without their parents to guide and protect them throughout their life. She talk about the fact that falling in love with a woman, a man leaves behind his mother’s unconditional love to earn another female’s attention which may create a further communication gap as men rarely discuss their romantic lives with their mothers.

Vrana explore in her article that men are less likely to talk about their personal life with their mothers, he further when on to say that men feels lost without their mothers unconditional love and that is reason why they are scared to fall in love with a woman who they are not related to.

DOHERTY, WILLIAM J., and SHONDA M. CRAFT. "Single Mothers Raising Children With 'Male-Positive' Attitudes." Family Process 50.1 (2011): 63-76. Academic Search Premier. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

This article addresses the challenges mothers face when raising children without the

active, positive involvement of the biological father, with particular focus on how

mothers can raise children with ‘‘male-positive’’ attitudes in the face of the break up

of the parents’ romantic relationship and the children’s loss of an active relationship

with their father. Male-positive attitudes as generalized

beliefs that men are good and trustworthy unless their individual behavior

suggests otherwise. The opposite of male-positive attitudes would be a generalized

suspicion of the character and intentions of men before knowing them and evaluating

their individual actions. William, Doherty and craft, provide a conceptual framework for understanding this challenge along with strategies for professionals to assist single mothers in the task of

parenting with male-positive attitudes.

Because this is ideologically tricky terrain, we want to stress that our emphasis is

on how mothers can deal constructively with the realistic and common situation of the

father’s absence following a break up. We are not suggesting that single mothers are

responsible for father’s absence, that they cannot raise boys alone, that their job is to

find a man for their children or stay with the father if the relationship is destructive,

or that a child cannot grow up well with an absent father. Along with Olga Silverstein

and Beth Rashbaum (1994), we disagree with all of these assertions. Rather, we are

suggesting that the single-mother/absent-father scenario in which the couple has

broken up creates special challenges for children in constructing a positive image

of men and that there is a need to address this challenge both professionally and

culturally.

The goal of this paper is to open up a conversation on this topic in two ways: (a) by

suggesting theoretical approaches that might be fruitful to understand the issue of

single mothers raising children with male-positive attitudes in the absence of the

father and (b) by offering psychoeducational messages for mothers who are in this

situation. The paper is informed by the authors’ community experiences with single

mothers, single fathers, and their children.

Carson, Janice Elizabeth. "Life Histories of Successful Black Males Reared in Absent Father Families." The University of Toledo, 2004. United States -- Ohio: ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT). Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

This study was a qualitative investigation of the perceptions of Black males reared

in absent father families regarding the experiences which contributed to success in their

lives. The purpose of the study was to discover, understand, and describe the

circumstances that contributed to the successful lives of Black males living in absent

father families. Also, it was to develop a deeper understanding of those experiences that

have helped to offset the negative effects of fatherlessness on adolescents. Success was

visualized as a process of personal growth.

Eight Black males who were all participants of the Toledo Excel Program at the

University of Toledo were individually interviewed in depth on two occasions. They also

met in a focus group at the conclusion of the interviews. After their verbatim transcripts

were analyzed, six themes emerged which were presented and discussed at the group

meeting.

The results obtained were that the participants attributed their success to faith in

God, their mothers, grandmothers, other extended family, friends, and the Toledo Excel

Program. They felt God made it all possible for them to become successful men today.

They characterized their mothers as hardworking, self-sacrificing, providing for their

needs, and paying for them to attend private schools. They characterized their

Grandmothers, other extended family, and friends as providing child caring, child rearing,

Finances, emotional support, and advice. The Toledo excel Program, a scholarship

incentive program, provided them with tutoring, classes, and trips throughout the United

States, Mexico, and Africa. As a result of the fathers’ absence, there was economic

deprivation, which was closely linked with difficult times. All of the participants felt that

children need both the mother and father in the home to rear children. They plan to “be

there” in the home for their own children.

Recommendations are given for programs focusing on the reduction of poverty,

increased involvement of the father in the child’s life, and increased communication

between the mother and father. Implications for community and social work programs

are outlined. Additional qualitative research with Black males is recommended.

Angie, D. Cartwright, and C. Henriksen Richard Jr. "The Lived Experience of Black Collegiate Males with Absent Fathers: Another Generation." Journal of Professional Counseling, Practice, Theory, & Research 39.2 (2012): 29-39. ProQuest Research Library. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

The phenomenon of absent fathers is increasing in the Black community and insight from Black males raised in these households is needed to understand how they persevere and succeed. This study explored the life experiences of collegiate Black males raised in absent father homes. Five themes emerged, which included a male role model/mentor, a supportive mother, desire to achieve an education, respect for their fathers, and resilience. The authors discuss these themes and present implications for future studies focused on counselors working with Black males raised in absent father households.

The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of collegiate Black males raised in absent father households. In article the term absent father is used to describe a strained relationship between father and son resulting in little contact between father and son. Exploring the experiences of Black collegiate males raised in absent father households could assist counselors seeking to help Black males with their advancement toward success. Focusing on the experience of living fatherless, the authors Angie, Cartwright and Richards focuses on what does the relationship between father and son mean to the collegiate Black male student.

Eastin, Jennifer Flood, Impact of Absent Father-Figures on Male Subjects and the

Correlation to Juvenile Delinquency: Findings and Implications. Doctor of Philosophy (Special

Education), August 2003, 93 pp., 22 tables, references, 107 titles.

This article ‘Impact of Absence Fathers” by author Eastin, was predicated on the belief that a father brings something unique to the family, thus, making irreplaceable contributions to the life of a child. Fathers are unique in that they provide something different from mothers. They are irreplaceable because when they are

absent, children are said to suffer emotionally, intellectually, socially, and behaviorally. The

contributions of fathers to a child’s well being cannot be fully replaced by better programming,

ensuring child support programs, or even by well-intentioned mentoring programs.

A review of literature relevant to delinquency and adolescent behavioral and academic

success revealed that there may be a correlation between a male role-model and the teaching of

self-control and socially appropriate behaviors. Indeed, much of what the large body of research

pertaining to fatherhood reveals is that, compared to children raised in two-parent homes,

children who grow up without their fathers have significantly worse outcomes, on average, on

almost every measure of well being (Horn, 2002). In addition, an understanding of the factors

that may influence delinquent behaviors, in particular within the family unit, can better equip

parents and educators to support those who may be exhibiting the beginning signs of delinquent

behavior.

This study was designed to determine the influence of, or correlation between, juvenile

delinquency and the presence or absence of a father-figure in a child’s life. Responses made on

the Delinquency Check List between two sample sets, delinquent and non-delinquent adolescents,

were examined. The study attempted to determine if delinquent activity among adolescents was

differentiated by the absence or presence of a father-figure in a child’s life. This study also

investigated the frequency and severity of delinquent activities between adolescents.

N, Indira Rani. "Child Care by Poor Single Mothers: Study of Mother-Headed Families in India." Journal of Comparative Family Studies 37.1 (2006): 75-X. ProQuest Research Library. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

Child rearing, single handedly by mothers alone when the spouse is absent due to death, desertion/divorce has been a real challenge according to Author Rani “child care by poor single mothers” It is further arduous for the mothers belonging to the poverty stricken families. These mothers are handicapped to provide the basic needs. Apart from that, they face many problems in bringing up their children such as childcare arrangements during their absence from home, the time spent with their children, problems with their schooling and behavioral problems exhibited by their children. The present article describes the problems being faced by these poor single mothers.

The impact of single parent families on child development is complex and varied. Traditionally housewives in India are expected to take care of their families, which include their children. Normally they are not likely to be earning members as most often these women do not possess enough education and skills to equip themselves to earn and they solely depend on their spouses' earnings. Under these circumstances when the husband is absent due to death or desertion/separation, there is drastic fall in the income levels of the family and the responsibility of taking care of the family squarely falls on the shoulders of the wife, thus form the single mother families or mother headed families. Many a time, the women have to work outside leaving children alone at home to tend for themselves. This is truer in case of mothers of young children. For these women, in view of their economic position, employing paid caretakers to look after their children is not possible. Being financially indigent, they are at a disadvantaged position to shape the careers of their children. This results in feelings of anxiety in them about the future of their children.

Under these circumstances, the impact of the absence of mothers from home is very severe on the children. These mothers are handicapped to afford the basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter for children. Economic demands are also high. Even when they are able to look after the needs of their children, the quality of care provided to meet these needs is generally unsatisfactory as the respondents are compelled to cut down on expenses. The children frequently dropouts from school as their mothers are not in a position to furnish the necessary books etc. Also, at times they are expected by their mothers to become substitute providers for family and hence start working to supplement the meager family income. Further the family's role, as an agent of socialization is also weak. Most often, the mother in her preoccupation with her struggle for existence does not find enough time to spend with children and to help them to grow up in a healthy manner both physically and psychologically. The absence of father makes it all the more intricate for the mother to discipline the children because in Indian families father generally takes the responsibility of disciplining the children.

Kathy, L. Hill. "Single Mothers - how are they Doing?" Journal of Organizational Culture, Communication and Conflict 15.1 (2011): 1-10. ABI/INFORM Complete. Web. 28 Nov. 2012.

A review of the literature was conducted to examine the status of single mothers. Are they thriving or merely surviving, The purpose of this article was to discuss economic and social factors that affect low-income single mothers and their children. The first objective examined by Author Hill was the economic factors, such as sometimes-severe financial hardships, the children's cognitive development, poverty-level living conditions, and quality child care which effects labor force participation. Financial strain was shown to have unhealthy effects on single mothers and especially on their children. The second objective examined was the social factors, such as absent fathers, below-level status, and possible behavioral problems. Single parents, whether mothers or fathers, have a difficult time maintaining an above-poverty-level lifestyle and raising their children to be healthy, well-adjusted, respectful, and successful adults.

Traditional families have become increasingly rare with a boost in other types of family structures, specifically single parent households headed by women. For the past two decades, the number of single mothers has been increasing. These single parents are faced with economic and social obstacles as they try to care for their families. It is often said that it is difficult enough for two parents to raise a child, let alone one parent. When that single parent depends only on a high school diploma to obtain employment and care for a family of two or more, it makes staying above the poverty line difficult if not impossible. However, with a college education to elevate wages, raising a child becomes more economically feasible. Results from a Brown University study showed that single mothers, compared with married mothers, reported substantially lower incomes, higher rates of childhood abuse and more psychiatric disorders (Hofferth, et al., 2000). These issues undoubtedly affect child development and behavior. Therefore, it is essential to gain insight into understanding and improving the position of single mothers in the workforce today.

The purpose of this article is to discuss economic and social factors that affect low-income single mothers and their children. Economic factors such as sometimes-severe financial hardships, the cognitive development of their children, poverty-level living conditions, and quality child care which affects labor force participation were assessed. Social issues such as receiving little or no support from fathers, children's behavioral problems, and society's misconceptions about single mothers were examined in the related literature.